

**Listing of Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) A metal halide lamp comprising a substantially cylindrical discharge vessel (3) having an internal diameter  $D_i < 2.0$  mm and filled with an ionizable filling, wherein two electrodes are present at a mutual distance  $E_A$  for maintaining a discharge in the discharge vessel, wherein the filling comprises an inert gas such as Xe having a pressure at room temperature between 5 and 25 bar, and an ionizable salt, characterized in that said ionizable salt is selected from the group comprising  $\text{PrI}_3$ ,  $\text{NdI}_3$  and  $\text{LuI}_3$ .
2. (original) A lamp according to claim 1, wherein said ionizable salt further comprises NaI, and wherein the molar ratio  $\text{NaI}/(\text{PrI}_3 + \text{NdI}_3 + \text{LuI}_3)$  lies between 1.0 and 10.3.
3. (currently amended) A lamp according to claim 2, wherein the molar ratio  $\text{NaI}/\text{PrI}_3$  lies between 2.3 and 10.3, ~~preferably between 3.0 and 5.7, and more preferably is approximately 3.5.~~
4. (currently amended) A lamp according to claim 1, wherein the amount of  $\text{PrI}_3$  in the discharge vessel is between 10 and 335  $\mu\text{mol}/\text{cm}^3$ , ~~preferably between 25 and 160  $\mu\text{mol}/\text{cm}^3$ , more preferably approximately 50  $\mu\text{mol}/\text{cm}^3$ .~~
5. (currently amended) A lamp according to claim 2, wherein the molar ratio  $\text{NaI}/\text{NdI}_3$  lies between 3.0 and 6.7, ~~preferably between 3.6 and 4.8, and more preferably is approximately 4.2.~~

6. (currently amended) A lamp according to claim 1, wherein the amount of NdI<sub>3</sub> in the discharge vessel is between 8 and 301  $\mu\text{mol}/\text{cm}^3$ , ~~preferably between 30 and 167  $\mu\text{mol}/\text{cm}^3$ , more preferably approximately 45  $\mu\text{mol}/\text{cm}^3$ .~~

7. (currently amended) A lamp according to claim 2, wherein the molar ratio NaI/LuI<sub>3</sub> lies between 1.0 and 3.2, ~~preferably between 1.2 and 1.8, and more preferably is approximately 1.4.~~

8. (currently amended) A lamp according to claim 1, wherein the amount of LuI<sub>3</sub> in the discharge vessel is between 15 and 414  $\mu\text{mol}/\text{cm}^3$ , ~~preferably between 27 and 230  $\mu\text{mol}/\text{cm}^3$ , more preferably approximately 69  $\mu\text{mol}/\text{cm}^3$ .~~

9. (previously presented) A lamp according to claim 1, wherein Di < 1.5 mm.

10. (previously presented) A lamp according to claim 1, wherein EA lies between 3 mm and 7 mm.

11. (previously presented) A lamp according to claim 1, wherein the discharge vessel has a ceramic wall.

12. (previously presented) A lamp according to claim 1, wherein the discharge vessel is surrounded by a gas-filled outer bulb.

13. (previously presented) A lamp according to claim 1, wherein the lamp power lies between 20 W and 40 W.

14. (currently amended) A metal halide lamp comprising a substantially cylindrical discharge vessel (3) having an internal diameter  $D_i < 2.0$  mm and filled with an ionizable filling, wherein two electrodes are present at a mutual distance EA for maintaining a discharge in the discharge vessel, wherein the filling comprises an inert gas such as Xe having a pressure at room temperature between 5 and 25 bar, and an ionizable salt selected from the group comprising  $\text{PrI}_3$ ,  $\text{NdI}_3$  and  $\text{LuI}_3$ , wherein the amount of  $\text{NdI}_3$  in the discharge vessel is between 8 and 301  $\mu\text{mol}/\text{cm}^3$ , ~~preferably between 30 and 167  $\mu\text{mol}/\text{cm}^3$ , more preferably approximately 45  $\mu\text{mol}/\text{cm}^3$ .~~

15. (currently amended) A metal halide lamp comprising a substantially cylindrical discharge vessel (3) having an internal diameter  $D_i < 2.0$  mm and filled with an ionizable filling, wherein two electrodes are present at a mutual distance EA for maintaining a discharge in the discharge vessel, wherein the filling comprises an inert gas such as Xe having a pressure at room temperature between 5 and 25 bar, and an ionizable salt selected from the group comprising  $\text{PrI}_3$ ,  $\text{NdI}_3$  and  $\text{LuI}_3$ , wherein said ionizable salt further comprises NaI, and wherein the molar ratio  $\text{NaI}/(\text{PrI}_3 + \text{NdI}_3 + \text{LuI}_3)$  lies between 1.0 and 3.2, ~~preferably between 1.2 and 1.8, and more preferably is approximately 1.4.~~

16. (currently amended) A metal halide lamp comprising a substantially cylindrical discharge vessel (3) having an internal diameter  $D_i < 2.0$  mm and filled with an ionizable filling, wherein two electrodes are present at a mutual distance EA for maintaining a discharge in the discharge vessel, wherein the filling comprises an inert gas such as Xe

having a pressure at room temperature between 5 and 25 bar, and an ionizable salt selected from the group comprising  $\text{PrI}_3$ ,  $\text{NdI}_3$  and  $\text{LuI}_3$ , wherein the amount of  $\text{LuI}_3$  in the discharge vessel is between 15 and 414  $\mu\text{mol}/\text{cm}^3$ , ~~preferably between 27 and 230  $\mu\text{mol}/\text{cm}^3$ , more preferably approximately 69  $\mu\text{mol}/\text{cm}^3$ .~~

17. (new) A lamp according to claim 3, wherein the molar ratio  $\text{NaI}/\text{PrI}_3$  lies between, preferably between 3.0 and 5.7.

18. (new) A lamp according to claim 17, wherein the molar ratio  $\text{NaI}/\text{PrI}_3$  is approximately 3.5.

19. (new) A lamp according to claim 4, wherein the amount of  $\text{PrI}_3$  in the discharge vessel is between 25 and 160  $\mu\text{mol}/\text{cm}^3$ .

20. (new) A lamp according to claim 19, wherein the amount of  $\text{PrI}_3$  in the discharge vessel is approximately 50  $\mu\text{mol}/\text{cm}^3$ .

21. (new) A lamp according to claim 5, wherein the molar ratio  $\text{NaI}/\text{NdI}_3$  lies between 3.6 and 4.8.

22. (new) A lamp according to claim 21, wherein the molar ratio  $\text{NaI}/\text{NdI}_3$  is approximately 4.2.

23. (new) A lamp according to claim 6, wherein the amount of  $\text{NdI}_3$  in the discharge vessel is between 30 and 167  $\mu\text{mol}/\text{cm}^3$ .

24. (new) A lamp according to claim 23, wherein the amount of  $\text{NdI}_3$  in the discharge vessel is approximately 45  $\mu\text{mol}/\text{cm}^3$ .

25. (new) A lamp according to claim 7, wherein the molar ratio  $\text{NaI}/\text{LuI}_3$  lies between 1.2 and 1.8.

26. (new) A lamp according to claim 25, wherein the molar ratio NaI/LuI<sub>3</sub> is approximately 1.4.

27. (new) A lamp according to claim 8, wherein the amount of LuI<sub>3</sub> in the discharge vessel is between 27 and 230 µmol/cm<sup>3</sup>.

28. (new) A lamp according to claim 27, wherein the amount of LuI<sub>3</sub> in the discharge vessel is approximately 69 µmol/cm<sup>3</sup>.

29. (new) A lamp according to claim 14, wherein the amount of NdI<sub>3</sub> in the discharge vessel is between 30 and 167 µmol/cm<sup>3</sup>.

30. (new) A lamp according to claim 29, wherein the amount of NdI<sub>3</sub> in the discharge vessel is approximately 45 µmol/cm<sup>3</sup>.

31. (new) A lamp according to claim 15, wherein the molar ratio NaI/(PrI<sub>3</sub> + NdI<sub>3</sub> + LuI<sub>3</sub>) lies between 1.2 and 1.8.

32. (new) A lamp according to claim 31, wherein the molar ratio NaI/(PrI<sub>3</sub> + NdI<sub>3</sub> + LuI<sub>3</sub>) is approximately 1.4.

33. (new) A lamp according to claim 16, wherein the amount of LuI<sub>3</sub> in the discharge vessel is between 27 and 230 µmol/cm<sup>3</sup>.

34. (new) A lamp according to claim 33, wherein the amount of LuI<sub>3</sub> in the discharge vessel is approximately 69 µmol/cm<sup>3</sup>.